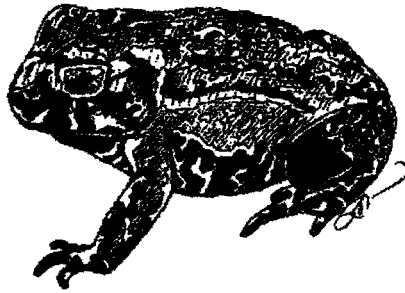


# Black Toad

*Bufo exsul*  
Family Bufonidae



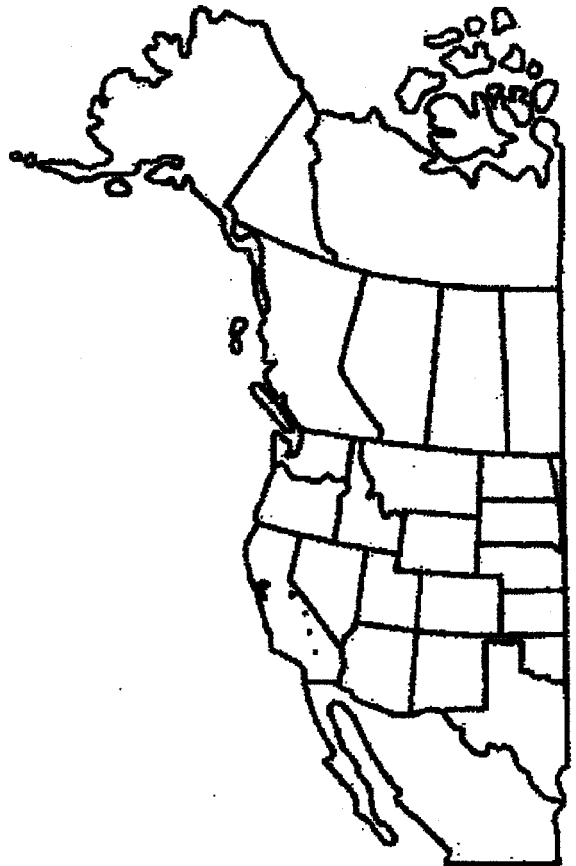
**Global Rank:** G1

**State Rank:** S1 (CA)

**Distribution:** Restricted to Deep Springs Valley, Inyo County, California, at about 5,000 ft. (1,520 m.) elevation. A population, apparently introduced, at nearby Antelope Springs may have died out.

**Description:** Adults reach up to 2 3/8 in. (6.2 cm.) in snout-vent length. Toads are small, lack cranial crests, but have oval parotoid glands. Dorsal coloration is heavy dark-olive to black mottling separated by light wavy marks. There usually is a light stripe down the middle of the back and heavy black blotches on the belly. Young are olive-colored above with yellow-orange foot tubercles becoming whitish or cream colored as individuals become older. Adult males with pale, unmarked or lightly spotted throat patches similar to females.

**Reproduction:** Breeds mainly from late March to May. Voice is a weak chirp. Eggs laid in two long, intertwined strands of gel, each containing thousands of eggs. Eggs hatch within a week and larvae probably transform the first summer.



*Current range of the black toad*

**Food:** Similar to western toad in that adults eat all types of flying insects, spiders, crayfish, sowbugs, and earthworms. Larvae eat algae, bottom detritus and filtered suspended plant material.

**Habits:** Found only in marshes of grass, sedge, and related aquatic vegetation formed by water flows from springs of Deep Springs Valley. Highly aquatic, diurnal except becomes nocturnal during warmer weather. Active from late March to mid-September.

**Management Implication:** On the California endangered species list.

**Important References:** Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Behler, J.L., and F.W. King. 2000. Field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. National Audubon Society, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.